OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

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Illinois Department of Human Rights Investigators Found Falsifying Documents and an Illinois Department of Insurance Examiner Found Falsifying Documents in Separate OEIG Investigations

Chicago: The OEIG discusses findings in separate OEIG investigations disclosed today.

In the *In Re: Isabella Gordon et al*, 11-02202 investigation, the OEIG issued findings involving four Illinois Department of Human Rights (DHR) investigators whose duties included investigating allegations of discrimination. OEIG investigators found that each of the four DHR investigators falsified numerous DHR documents which allowed them additional time to investigate claims of discrimination. The so-called "extension forms," should have been signed by the parties involved in the discrimination complaint but were actually forged or altered by DHR investigators **Isabella Gordon, Derrick Venton, Jill Parker,** and **Dean Reed.** All four DHR investigators resigned prior to the conclusion of the OEIG investigation.

During the *In Re: Isabella Gordon et al*, investigation, the OEIG also discovered that after the four DHR investigators falsified documents allowing them additional time to investigate claims of discrimination, they did little to no investigative work on the complaints. In addition, the OEIG also determined that lax management over DHR investigators existed. "Persons alleging discrimination, as well as persons or companies responding to claims of discrimination, deserve to have the claims investigated by persons who do not themselves engage in wrongdoing by falsifying documents, which is what our investigation uncovered," said **First Deputy Inspector General Kristy Shores**. As a result of the OEIG investigation, DHR has implemented new practices and procedures aimed at improving how DHR investigations are handled.

In the *In Re: Anita Reikalas*, 12-01729 investigation, the OEIG found that Illinois Department of Insurance Field Staff Examiner **Anita Reikalas** submitted multiple false reports seeking and obtaining reimbursements for expenses not incurred. The OEIG also concluded that Ms. Reikalas, a long-time insurance examiner, failed to cooperate with investigators. "State employees are obligated to file truthful reimbursement requests," said **Assistant Inspector General Angela Luning** who handled this matter. Specifically, the OEIG found that **Ms. Reikalas** submitted more than four dozen forms falsely indicating she was owed over \$3,000 in reimbursements when she was not so entitled. **Ms. Reikalas** resigned shortly after the OEIG completed its investigation.

About the Office of Executive Inspector General for Agencies of the Illinois Governor: The OEIG was created by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430) in 2003. The OEIG receives, evaluates, and investigates allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, and violations of the Ethics Act, the 1990 US Supreme Court *Rutan* ruling, and other laws. Please visit our website at inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov. for additional information.